

REMARKS:

The Examiner's point with respect to an information disclosure statement (IDS) is well taken. Since both the examiner and applicant are aware of the relevant prior art, no IDS will be filed.

Since claim 3 has been cancelled, the objection raised in paragraph (2) on page 2 of the Official Action has been overcome.

Claim 7 has been amended to make it dependent on new claim 8, which contains support for "the pivotable frame".

Claims 1 to 5 have been cancelled and claim 6 is now dependent on new claim 8, which contains all of the limitations of original claim 5. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims on the basis of 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is moot.

New claim 8 is believed to patentably distinguish the present invention from the Ross '710 reference and Pickler '868 for the following reasons.

As a preliminary, it is worth noting that applicant has indeed taken the Ross invention and improved upon it in what is believed to be a patentable (inventive) manner. It will be appreciated that applicant has made the cutting operation extremely simple.

New claim 8 calls for a combination of elements including first and second cutting guides carried by a frame, which is pivotable with respect to a surface over which a media (wrapping paper) is unrolled, and cutters on the cutting guides for cutting the media lengthwise and widthwise in two simple operations.

The Ross patent teaches the use of a single cutting guide for cutting a media transversely of its direction of travel over a support surface. While Pickler discloses an

apparatus including two separate cutters for effecting longitudinal and transverse cuts, it would not be obvious to combine the teachings of Pickler with Ross. Pickler describes an apparatus including two separate cutting guides fixedly mounted in spaced apart relationship to each other on a table.

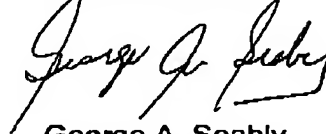
There is no suggestion in Ross that the Pickler apparatus could be combined with his device. Moreover, in mechanical terms, the person skilled in the art to which the present invention relates would most likely take the longitudinal cutter of Pickler and secure it to the support surface of Ross to effect lengthwise cuts. In the absence of the specification of this application, i.e. an exercise in ex post facto analysis, it would not readily occur to one skilled in the art that the fixed cutter assembly of Pickler could be mounted on a support frame carrying a cutter for effecting cuts transversely of a media.

In cases such as this, it is all too easy to mosaic prior art references to show obviousness. Applicant has invented a novel combination of elements which is deserving of patent protection. In the absence of a suggestion in Ross that the teachings of Pickler could somehow be combined with his invention, it is submitted that the invention claimed in new claim 8 is not obvious. At the time Ross filed his patent application (March 1991) the Pickler patent had long been in existence (June 1975). Surely, Ross should have appreciated that an assembly that is capable of making cuts transversely and longitudinally of a media is preferable to a device which cuts transversely only. Equipped with such knowledge, if it was obvious to do so, Ross would have made the combination, thus providing a more useful, vendible product. Since Ross, who clearly qualifies as a person skilled in the art, did not make the

connection, applicant's invention cannot have been obvious at the time it was made by her.

Early and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Yours sincerely,



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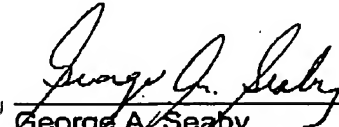
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August 3, 2004



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